

**Abstract**

In a process for the continuous preparation of polybutylene terephthalate from terephthalic acid and 1,4-butanediol comprising:

- a) direct esterification of terephthalic acid with 1,4-butanediol in a reactor cascade comprising at least two reactors,
- b) precondensation of the esterification product obtained in stage a), and
- c) polycondensation of the precondensate obtained in stage b),

the reaction pressure decreases and the temperature does not increase along the reactor cascade in stage a).